

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02212 282125Z  
ACTION HA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8654  
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM CI  
SUBJECT: WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO HAYDEE DEL CARMEN PALMA DONOSO?

1. SUMMARY: RELATIVES OF A LEFTIST DOCTOR CLAIM THAT SHE WAS DETAINED BY CHILEAN SECRET POLICE JANUARY 16. THE GOC NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED HER DETENTION. LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS BEGAN LISTING HAYDEE PALMA DONOSO AS THE FIRST "DISAPPEARED" SO FAR IN 1978. BUT MS. PALMA DID NOT DISAPPEAR. SHE WAS PICKED UP BY PERUVIAN BORDER FORCES, EVENTUALLY TAKEN TO LIMA AND, WE UNDERSTAND, WILL SOON BE OFF TO HAVANA. THE GOC HAS SAID HER CASE DEMONSTRATES WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS LONG CONTENDED: MANY CHILEANS HAVE SOUGHT TO SLIP ACROSS THE BORDER AND BLAME THEIR "DISAPPEARANCE" ON THE GOC. BUT THE EVIDENCE IS STRONG THAT MS. PALMA WAS INDEED PICKED UP IN CHILE, AND RUTHLESSLY INTERROGATED BEFORE SHE REACHED PERU. AMEMBASSY LIMA MAY BE ABLE TO THROW LIGHT ON THIS CASE BY DISCUSSING IT WITH THE UNHCR REP. END SUMMARY

2. ON JANUARY 16, MRS SOFIA HAYDEE DONOSO QUEVEDO AND A DAUGHTER WERE DETAINED BY SECURITY FORCES IN A SANTIAGO SUBURB. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOMEN WERE ACCOMPANYING GABRIEL RIVEROS ROVELO, A MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) LEADER, WHO DIED IN A SHOOTOUT WITH THE GOC AGENTS. ACCORDING TO MRS DONOSO, THE GOVERNMENT KILLED RIVEROS IN COLD BLOOD AFTER ENTERING THE HOUSE UNOPPOSED. NEIGHBORS, ACCORDING TO THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY, HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXTENDED SHOOTOUT ALLEGED BY THE GOC.

3. SECURITY FORCES SUBSEQUENTLY ACKNOWLEDGED THE DETENTION OF THREE OTHER PERSONS AT A DIFFERENT HOUSE IN SANTIAGO ALSO ON JANUARY 16. BOTH SERIES OF DETENTIONS WERE RELATED AND THE SUSPECTS APPARENTLY ALL HERDED TO THE SAME INTERROGATION CENTER (POSSIBLY BY THEIR DESCRIPTIONS, VILLA GRIMALDI).

4. ON FEBRUARY 6, ONCE OUT OF INCOMMUNICADO STATUS BUT STILL IN JAIL, MRS DONOSO FILED A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER DAUGHTER--HAYDEE DEL CARMEN PALMA DONOSO. SHE ASSERTED MS. PALMA WAS DETAINED AT THE SECOND HOUSE. MRS DONOSO CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN HER DAUGHTER, IN POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION, AT THE INTERROGATION CENTER. A CIVILIAN COURT ACCEPTED THE PETITION BUT INDEFINITELY TABLED THE CASE AFTER THE SECURITY SERVICES DENIED PALMA HAD BEEN DETAINED.

5. TESTIMONY TAKEN FROM THE OTHERS DETAINED WITH MRS DONOSO AND SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY SUBSTANTIATES MRS DONOSO'S STORY THAT HAYDEE DEL CARMEN WAS IN FACT SEEN AT THE INTERROGATION CENTER. THEY ATTESTED TO HER PHYSICAL MALTREATMENT AS WELL.

6. BY MID-MARCH, THE VICARIATE BEGAN LISTING MS. PALMA  
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AS THE FIRST "DISAPPEARED" SO FAR IN 1978. A MIR FLYER CLAIMED THAT PALMA (A 32 YEAR OLD MEDICAL DOCTOR) HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE MIR CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE GOC.

7. SHORTLY THEREAFTER A PERUVIAN COMMUNIST PUBLICATION, "MARKA" REPORTED THAT PALMA HAD BEEN FOUND UNCONSCIOUS JUST OVER THE PERUVIAN BORDER WITH OBVIOUSLY FRAUDULENT IDENTIFICATION PAPERS AND HAD BEEN CARTED OFF TO LIMA, WHERE SHE WAS PLACED AT THE DISPOSITION OF SECURITY FORCES. RELATIVES OF THE DISAPPEARED AND A SENIOR VICARIATE SOURCE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT PALMA HAD BEEN WELL TREATED BY PERUVIAN BORDER AUTHORITIES AND OTHERS WHO HAD NURSED HER BACK TO HEALTH AND TURNED HER CASE OVER TO THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES IN LIMA. PALMA REPORTEDLY WAS SOON TO BE OFF TO HAVANA.

8. THE GOC PLAYED BACK THE STORY AS A DEMONSTRATION OF ITS OFTEN ASSERTED AND NEVER PROVEN CLAIM THAT MOST PEOPLE ALLEGED TO HAVE "DISAPPEARED" BY THE GOC IN FACT WENT UNDERGROUND OR SLIPPED SECRETLY OUT OF CHILE.

9. COMMENT: THE CASE POINTS UP THE DIFFICULTIES IN  
RUNNING TO GROUND THE TRUE EVENTS SURROUNDING ALLEGED  
HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES. WE WOULD HAVE MORE FAITH IN  
THE EVIDENCE OF GOC COMPLICITY WERE NOT THE EYE-  
WITNESSES SO OBVIOUSLY IN ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO THE  
GOC. PALMA'S STATEMENTS FROM HAVANA WILL ADD NOTHING  
TO THEIR VERISIMILITUDE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT SEEMS  
LIKELY TO THE EMBASSY--JUDGED AGAINST PREVIOUS CASES--  
THAT PALMA FELL INTO GOC HANDS. WE BELIEVE HER LIFE  
WAS SPARED BECAUSE SHE WAS SEEN IN DETENTION.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LIGHT  
THAT UNHCR REP IN LIMA MIGHT CAST ON THIS CASE.  
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## Message Attributes

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